The Understanding of One's Self.

The sensation of John the Baptist and consequent inquiry.
The manner and message of John.
The crowds and the concern of the authorities
The delegated body of official inquiry to find out
who John was and what his claims were
WHO ART THOU? WHAT SAYEST THOU OF THYSELF?
John's definite answer. I am not the Christ. I am not Elijah the prophet. I am a voice . I baptize with water.

None of us is making a sufficient sensation to cause the authorities either of chrch or state to make inquiry as to who and what we are; nevertheless, the world demands that every man give an account of himself. Man has made wonderful discoveries, indeed, but none equal the discovery of himself. Happy is the man who finds himself, who learns to know who he is and what he is. Not that we are like John, but that he is like all of us that we should apply the questim

I. What I am in view of what has been done for me.

If I am to understand myself I must take into account my inheritance, what mother and father did for me in childhood, what teachers and friends did for my youth. John seemingly stands alone in the wilderness, a sort of self-made man, but he does not stand alone but in the midst of a great company. His parents and teachers and companions of his youth& Intimacy with the boy Jesus and his mother Mary. He was brot up to expect the coming of the Chriist. Nor can I ignore the company of wise and noble kindred and friends among whom I grew up. I am the child of my age. I am what the time has made me. Its thot is in my mind, its sympathies are in my heart.

II. I am, or ought to be, what my age demands of me.

John the baptist had done for him that which prepared him for rendering the service his time and place demanded of him. He was to be a voice in the wilderness, preparing the way of the Christ. It was what John the Baptist did that made him what he really was. What any man really is depends upon what he

does in response to the demands of his day. I may be but a whisper in the wilderness, but I can lean on those great cosmic forces which are moving the earth, and my voice, however feeble, shall have part in the great chorus heard in heaven, saying t that the kingdoms of the earth have become the Lord's.

The editorial- What I was in my youth, what I purposed to be in my manhood, and what I am now.

Some men have a Ptolemaic notion of life- their little earth is the center around which all else revolves. Our age demands that we adjust ourselves to the copernican conception of the world, admitting that ours is only a little earth in the great universe, and finding our true solar center in the great moral gravitation of God's Love.

III. What am I for the future?

The future of John the Baptist was very short- 3 months Of Jesus but 3 yeers. Life seems too short for us to accomplish very much, does it not? But the shortest life is long enough to to take the right direction, and direction is the main thing in life.

For our children we ask, How are they coming out? Mother's prayer to be spared until her youngest was at least 20. Why ? That she might live to see me headed right. And that is just what our Hwavenly Father asks about every child of h His.

There is more in us that we have ever brot out.
Aye, than we have ever conceived of.

The inventions of this age will be as nothing as compared to the further discoveries within the realm of personality that are bound to be made soon.

Conclusion. We are not left alone to answer this searching ?
There was a common opinion of men about John.
What we are as others see us. —La. Unlworth - making good/lives
John's estimate of others revealed what he was himself.
In need of repentance and of a Christ.
The man who complained of another's appearance,
only to find himself before a mirror looking
at himself.

Others reflect what we are.

John in prison thot himself and his Christ to be a faipure. Who of us does not get discouraged? And who of us at the end of his life career can be satisfied? Then came Jesus' own testimony of John. ~~What went ye out to see? To John personally:~~ The make walk, the blind receive their sight Jesus message to John; Go and tell John the things which ye do and hear and see: the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good tidings preached unto them.

Jesus testimony to the multitudes: Among them that are born of women there is none greater than John the Pabtist.

We, too have an advocate with the Father, whose answer on our behalf is all that we can ask. And when we grow discouraged and our faith fails us, God sends his message, "My grace is sufficient for thee".